

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sound absorbing material comprising:
 - first polyester fiber (A) in an amount ranging from 20 to 95 parts by weight, said first polyester fiber having a size smaller than 1 denier; and
 - second polyester fiber (C) in an amount ranging from 5 to 50 parts by weight, said second polyester fiber including a component having a softening point lower than that of said first polyester fiber by at least a temperature of 20 °C, said second polyester fiber having a size ranging from 1 to 100 denier.
2. A sound absorbing material as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising third polyester fiber (B) in an amount ranging from 1 to 5 parts by weight, said third polyester fiber having a size ranging from 1 to 100 denier.
3. An interior material comprising:
 - a sound absorbing material layer including
 - first polyester fiber (A) in an amount ranging from 20 to 95 parts by weight, said first polyester fiber having a size smaller than 1 denier, and
 - second polyester fiber (C) in an amount ranging from 5 to 50 parts by weight, said second polyester fiber including a component having a softening point lower than that of said first polyester fiber by at least a temperature of 20 °C, said second polyester fiber having a size ranging from 1 to 100 denier; and
 - a first moldable layer laminated to said sound absorbing material layer and including
 - fourth polyester fiber (E) in an amount ranging from 5 to 100 parts by weight, said fourth polyester fiber having a size ranging from 1 to 100 denier.

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4. An interior material as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said moldable layer includes fifth polyester fiber (D) in an amount ranging from 1 to 95 parts by weight, said fifth polyester fiber including a component having a softening point higher than that of said fourth polyester fiber by at least a temperature of 20 °C, said fifth polyester fiber having a size ranging from 1 to 100 denier.

5. An interior material as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said fifth polyester fiber has a size ranging from 5 to 100 denier.

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6. An interior material as claimed in Claim 3, further comprising a second moldable layer laminated to said sound absorbing material layer and located at a surface opposite to the other surface at which said first moldable layer is located, said second moldable layer including said fourth polyester fiber (E) in an amount ranging from 5 to 100 parts by weight, said fourth polyester fiber having a size ranging from 1 to 100 denier.

7. An interior material as claimed in Claim 3, wherein a total thickness of said sound absorbing material layer and a total thickness of said moldable layer are in a ratio of a value ranging from 40 to 95 : a value ranging from 5 to 60.

8. A method of producing an interior material, comprising:
preparing a sound absorbing material layer including first polyester fiber (A) in an amount ranging from 20 to 95 parts by weight, said first polyester fiber having a size smaller than 1 denier, and second polyester fiber (C) in an amount ranging from 5 to 50 parts by weight, said second polyester fiber including a component having a softening point lower than that of said first polyester fiber by at least a temperature of 20 °C, said second polyester fiber having a size ranging from 1 to 100 denier;

preparing a moldable layer including fourth polyester fiber (E) in an amount ranging from 5 to 100 parts by weight, said fourth polyester fiber having a size ranging from 1 to 100 denier; and

5 heat-treating said sound absorbing material and moldable layers at a temperature which is not lower than the highest one of the softening points of said second polyester fiber (C) and said fourth polyester fiber (E) and lower than the softening point of said first polyester fiber (A) by at least a temperature of 20 °C, so that said sound absorbing material and moldable layers are bonded to each
10 other.

9. A method of producing an interior material, comprising:
preparing a sound absorbing material layer including first polyester fiber (A) in an amount ranging from 20 to 95 parts by
15 weight, said first polyester fiber having a size smaller than 1 denier, second polyester fiber (C) in an amount ranging from 5 to 50 parts by weight, said second polyester fiber including a component having a softening point lower than that of said first polyester fiber by at least a temperature of 20 °C, said second polyester fiber having a size
20 ranging from 1 to 100 denier, and third polyester fiber (B) in an amount ranging from 1 to 5 parts by weight, said third polyester fiber having a size ranging from 1 to 100 denier;

preparing a moldable layer including fourth polyester fiber (E) in an amount ranging from 5 to 100 parts by weight, said fourth polyester fiber having a size ranging from 1 to 100 denier, and fifth polyester fiber (D) in an amount ranging from 1 to 95 parts by weight, said fifth polyester fiber including a component having a softening point higher than that of said fourth polyester fiber by at least a temperature of 20 °C, said fifth polyester fiber having a size ranging
25 from 1 to 100 denier; and
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heat-treating said superposed sound absorbing material and moldable layers at a temperature which is not lower than the highest one of the softening points of said second polyester fiber (C)

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and said fourth polyester fiber (E) and lower by at least a temperature of 20 °C than the lowest one of the softening points of said first polyester fiber (A), said third polyester fiber (B) and said fifth polyester fiber (D), so that said sound absorbing material and moldable layers are bonded to each other.

10. A method as claimed in Claim 9, further comprising bonding said sound absorbing material and moldable layers to each other by using one of a needle punch method and an adhesive.

11. A method as claimed in Claim 9, further comprising superposing said sound absorbing material and moldable layers one upon another before said heat-treating.

12. A method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said heat-treating is carried out in a condition where said sound absorbing material layer and said moldable layer are separate from each other, wherein said method further comprises superposing said sound absorbing material and moldable layers one upon another after said heat-treating; and bonding said sound absorbing material and moldable layers to each other by using one of a needle punch method and an adhesive, after said superposing.

13. A dash insulator for an automotive vehicle, comprising:
an interior material including

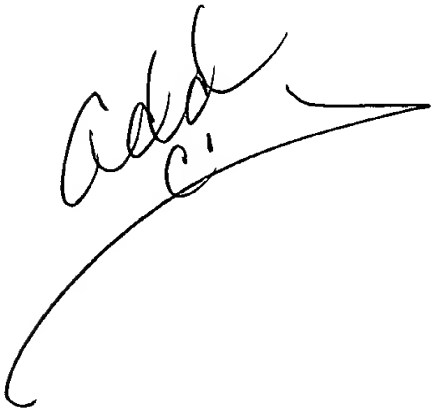
a sound absorbing material layer including first polyester fiber (A) in an amount ranging from 20 to 95 parts by weight, said first polyester fiber having a size smaller than 1 denier, and second polyester fiber (C) in an amount ranging from 5 to 50 parts by weight, said second polyester fiber including a component having a softening point lower than that of said first polyester fiber by at least a temperature of 20 °C, said second polyester fiber having a size ranging from 1 to 100 denier; and

a first moldable layer laminated to said sound absorbing material layer and including fourth polyester fiber (E) in an amount ranging from 5 to 100 parts by weight, said fourth polyester fiber having a size ranging from 1 to 100 denier.

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14. A dash insulator as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said interior material further includes a second moldable layer laminated to said sound absorbing material layer and located at a surface opposite to the other surface at which said first moldable layer is
- 10 located, said second moldable layer including said fourth polyester fiber (E) in an amount ranging from 5 to 100 parts by weight, said fourth polyester fiber having a size ranging from 1 to 100 denier, wherein said first and second moldable layers are positioned respectively to sides of engine compartment and passenger
- 15 compartment of the vehicle.

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